

TRUE WORSHIP

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Worship

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We are living in a most significant age. These are truly crucial times, which are momentous in terms of God's eternal purposes. As we come closer to the end of the ages, we need to refocus our lives upon the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all things consist. It is in this context that the Lord has laid a burden upon my heart to bring the matter of worship before God's people.

It is not my intention to go into the basics of how one should worship the Lord. Nor is it my desire to cover and include all aspects of worship in these few pages. Over the years, the Holy Spirit has led us to understand the need for thanksgiving, praise and worship and to know the difference between these Biblical activities. It is not the generality of worship that concerns the Lord so much at this time, as the specific condition of worship in the local churches. There is every indication that the Lord would like us to progressively move into a higher and different realm of worship that would ultimately bring us into a fuller apprehension of His Person and His purpose in these days.

Praise and worship brings God into a situation as nothing else can, and it put Him in the right place, which is overall. It is a tremendous thing to be able to put the Lord over everything, over breakdowns, over perplexities, over sufferings, over your needs, over your failures and even over your sins. Worship has always proved a most powerful weapon against the kingdom

of darkness. True worship always helps us find our way back to God's heart.

In order to obey the Spirit in all that He has for us, as His people, I am convinced that we need to first empty ourselves of every preconceived thought regarding worship. We also need to lay aside the form and manner of our worship at present, though they were brought about by none other than the Spirit of God. Let us, rather, begin with a clean slate, with hearts that are completely open to the bidding of the Spirit of God.

Worship

Belongs to God.

The beginning of everything in relation to God is worship. Worship is, God having the central and supreme place of recognition, of acknowledgment, of government: God having supreme right to our complete obedience and surrender, in every part and phase of our being. **It is a relationship and not a mere exercise.** Worship is first of all a relationship, not something legal or official, but one of constitution, one of divine conception; a work of the Spirit of God.

Worship is the only right way to approach the living God. We know this because in the beginning, when God created all things, He placed a spirit in man. God is Spirit and therefore, God gave man a spirit to commune with Him. He made man in His likeness. It is with the

spirit alone that man can touch heavenly things. Other living beings have feelings, they have body and soul, but they cannot worship God because the element of the spirit is absent in them. Truly, man has a unique place in God's creation for God has only provided man with the means to have a living relationship with Him.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, the constitution of man underwent a change, for the element of the spirit in man, perished or died. Before the spirit of man died, man could commune and even walk with God, but after man's spirit died due to the sin of disobedience, man lost the faculty of touching God. Man's constitution was changed from what God had first given him. It is for this reason that man can only worship God when the spirit within him is brought to life. This is why Jesus said that we must be born again.

The Devil's objective is always to get man to worship him and not God. This was his objective in the Garden when he tempted Eve. His sole aim is to draw men away from the worship of God and to somehow prevent them from giving God the supreme place in their lives. In other words, the devil always seeks to supplant God and become the object of man's worship. In this, he has been eminently successful, for he has managed to blind the minds of the majority of people, thus becoming the god of this world to whom people bow down in worship. 'In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should

shine unto them'. (2 Cor 4:4).

When the Last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, came into the world, and began to walk in the will of the Father, the one thing that the enemy sought to capture was His worship! 'And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.' (Matt 4:9).

The adversary sought to do the same with the Last Adam as he did with the first Adam. However, Jesus clearly reiterated the desire of God for man to worship Him and Him alone. God wants man to worship Him and so does Satan. The devil's aim in tempting the Lord Jesus was to defeat the Father's objective to bring forth a new race, a new man and a new creation in Christ. We know that the adversary, the devil failed to get Jesus to worship him. What about us, the spiritual brothers of the Lord Jesus? Will we be successful in defeating Satan, as did our forerunner and Elder brother?

The devil's purpose is not only to make man sin but also to make man worship him. Therefore, at this critical stage in God's calendar, it is imperative for us to realize that Satan does not get more and more worship for himself. It is here that we need to see that the Church must accord priority to the call to worship the eternal, living God.

That the beginning of everything in God lies in worship also implies that God must have the central and supreme place of recognition, reverence, devotion and

veneration. God must receive the complete acknowledgment, acquiescence, obedience and surrender of man. His government and His control must extend to every part and phase of our being. Worship begins there.

We must begin to see that worship is a matter of true life in the Son. Worship is a relationship with God. This is where worship begins. Worship unto the eternal God is a matter of a living relationship. Worship is not only a spiritual or religious exercise of the will, involving obeisance, homage and respect. It incorporates a relationship, first. Not a legal relationship or an official relationship, but an organic relationship, which involves a divine conception and emanates from the workings of the Spirit of God. In order to wholly worship the living God there needs to be a constitutional transformation of our inner man.

Today, the worship of God, by God's people is far away from what worship is supposed to be. We cannot apply any specific ways and methods to the worship of the living God. A man of God has said, "Worship cannot be isolated or relegated to just one place, time or segment of our lives. We cannot verbally thank and praise God while living lives of selfishness and carnality. Real acts of worship must be the overflow of a worship life".

True worship emerges from a practical life of dependence upon the Father. It's not something we do in specified ways and methods. It's an attitude of the life. It's a place, which God has, in the entire consciousness. And that's worship!

**“...Behold I will
do a New Thing”**

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.’ (John 4:21-24).

In these portions of the Gospel of John, a revealing and meaningful dialogue takes place between the Lord Jesus and the Samaritan woman regarding worship. The Jews said that Jerusalem was the place where men ought to worship God. The temple in Jerusalem was the place for worship. God Himself brought into practice that system of worship in Jerusalem. It was the Lord who founded, established and developed the system. Exodus chapters 25-40 make it very clear that it was God who gave the pattern of the tabernacle to Moses at Mount Sinai, so that the Israelites may worship their God. The system of priesthood, with the robes and vestments, the sacrifices and incense, the form and patterns were all instituted by God so that man may not try and worship God, according to the dictates of the flesh.

When the wanderings in the wilderness were over, the Lord put within David a desire to build a temple

for worship unto Jehovah. ‘All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.’ (1 Chr 28:19)

The temple of Solomon was one of the wonders of the ancient world. God provided the pattern for the splendid, breath taking architecture that people admired at Jerusalem. Thus, we see that be it the tabernacle or the temple, the patterns were initially set and established by God, so that the people of God may worship the Lord in the manner in which the Lord desired. The temple at Jerusalem in the days of the Lord was built in the traditions of the Temple of Solomon. The tabernacle, the temples, the priesthood will all its elaborate vestments, given by God, continued to exist for thousands of years.

Yes, God had brought that order in but now the Lord Jesus was setting that whole order aside. In saying, that the New Testament people would worship God, neither in this mountain nor at Jerusalem, the Lord is essentially pointing out two things. Firstly, that the old system of worshipping in a temple built with stones is not the true worship. Secondly, that the old form of worship would give into a new worship in spirit and in truth.

Jesus said that the hour is coming and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. He said that the system of worship in man-made temples was being set aside, whether it is in this mountain or that mountain. God had made a new

beginning, bringing in something, which was upon the heart of God from the foundation of the world.

It is true that the Lord had instituted the old system of worship in temples; it is the same Lord who was now setting the old aside as well, so that God's people could come into that which was upon the heart of God from the very beginning. The temple with its altars and furniture's, the priesthood with its breastplate and other trappings, were only a type, an illustration, a set of symbols and not the final thing. God never intended the old system of worship unto God to go on indefinitely. It was designed for that particular time only. God never intended man to make that a thing in itself. It served as a shadow of things to come and was not an end in itself. We know that whether it was the tabernacle or the temple or the priesthood, it all pointed to the Lord Jesus and to His cross. This is what Jesus was explaining to the Samaritan woman. The time had come to set the old thing aside and progress on into that which God had from the beginning. The old form of worship was of the soul realm, while the new belonged to the Spirit. That which belonged to the realm of the soul was to pass and that which was of the Spirit was to come in.

Even today, the Church, like the Samaritan woman, has not been able to understand this truth. Christendom has gone astray because it has not been able to apprehend that the previous form of worship in the realm of the soul; of seeing, touching and feeling had been set aside. The realm of the invisible had set in. There is a

divide between the soul and the spirit.

The whole matter of worship is now of the spirit and not of the soul. The Church has not been able to understand that the previous realm of the soul signified a period of transition that pointed to the realm of the spirit, which the Lord wants to bring us into.

Neither consider the Things of the Old.

It is not the ecclesiastical architecture of the place of worship that counts, nor the priestly robes, nor the ordinances and rites nor even the liturgy and songs that matter. All these things in the realm of the visible ended with Calvary. To perpetuate anything of that kind today is a contradiction to Christ and the cross. That is why, when we are born again, we cannot be a part of that soulish and earthly system of worship any longer. In God's eyes all the things of old ended with the coming of the Lord and His death on the cross.

Perpetuating the old order, in even a small measure, is a contradiction to Calvary. Even subscribing to it or offering any kind of support to that kind of worship or system is a contradiction to Calvary. Supporting the old when the new has made its appearance is a failure to perceive what the Lord Jesus had really done upon the cross at Calvary. Sometimes, people who are filled with the Holy Spirit and even

operate the gifts of the Holy Spirit, feel that they can truly worship the Lord, though they may still be a part of the system that gives credence to the old tenets and dogmas of worship. However, little do they realize that they stand and worship the living God in contradiction to Calvary. God has set aside the old system of worship fully and completely. It is a terrible deception to sit in pews within ecclesiastical palaces and be a part of that old form of worship that has been set aside by the very one whom they desire to worship!

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True Worship

Christ was the object of every act in the Old Testament in types and figures. The robe, the priesthood, the glory, the tabernacle, and the temple, all these and many more, pointed towards the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, we had the temple, and in the New Testament, we have the Church, which is the Body of Christ. In type, the temple and the tabernacle pointed to spiritual fellowship, of the saints being joined together, of living stones being built together, to form a spiritual temple under the Headship of Christ. In the New Testament, we have come into the reality of all that, in Christ. When there is a failure to recognize the spiritual meaning of the church and a failure to enter the realms of the Spirit and continue to remain in the old system, we are still on soul level, and we are open to deception. Some may come into a portion of that which the Spirit has for the Church, some may experience a small percentage of all that the Spirit has for the Body of Christ, but they cannot in any way experience the true worship that satisfies the Father God. So many good believers are

in bondage to a traditional system even today. We need to be sensitive not to maintain the old form of worship in any way.

The whole purpose of the letter to the Hebrews was to address a similar condition that prevailed in the first century. As long as the things of Moses existed, the new things of the Spirit could not be brought in. There is a setting aside that is needed even today. 'For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.' (Heb 8:7-8).

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True Worship

The Hebrew Christians had received light concerning worship. They realized that worship unto God was no longer a matter of form, of ceremony, of external rights or of buildings, priest, garments and sacrifices, but it is all Christ. They had seen it. They had made a good beginning. They had come out of the Judaic tradition and the formal religious system (the law), and were no longer a part of that historical camp. They began to walk in the new path of the cross and Christianity, but that brought persecution, ostracism, isolation, loneliness and all manner of things. The religious people made it difficult for them. The price to be paid for what is truly spiritual and heavenly was and is great. There were pressures and pulls upon them in many ways to go back. As the pressures and persecutions began to increase, they began to slowly succumb to those pressures. God's

people today need to be very sensitive, not only in the area of worship but in every sphere of activity for the enemy brings pressures of different kinds so that we may leave this path. The types of pressure the enemy may bring against us may vary but his objective remain the same. The enemy's sole objective is to draw us away from the path of worship unto God. The Hebrew Christians had made an extraordinary beginning. They weathered persecutions; they suffered isolation; they were rejected; they paid a great price for the truth and the light of the gospel; they were mistreated and spat upon, but they did not succumb to all the pressures in the early stages. They bravely suffered all things for Christ and His gospel for a period but slowly they turned back to their former ways. The writer of the book of Hebrews was burdened to tell them that what they had come into was far more precious than what they had left. 'It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.' (Heb 9:23).

The Hebrew Christians of the first century had come into "the pattern of the things of the heavenlies" and "the heavenly things themselves". It is the same with every believer today. Then, why should we go back to the old things again, which were the shadow of the substance and mere pattern?

The historic Christianity or the traditional Christianity as such, still desire to keep God's people on

a soul level of worship. This historic and traditional Christianity even today insists upon a certain kind of building, music, pattern and form of prayer etc. Beloved, these are of the pre-Calvary pattern! The Lord Jesus has put away all that by the cross.

What Then is Spiritual Worship?

What then is spiritual worship? It is bringing up from the heart an appreciation of the perfection of Christ. This is fully portrayed in the Old Testament in the tabernacle, sacrifices, priesthood, vestments etc. in types and shadows.

We could say that we have come out of the historic, traditional Christianity and its system. We have another way of doing things. They could be good things, and even could be things set up by the Lord. The Lord may have brought us into that. But now, there is a need for progression even in this respect. We may have some light on what true worship is, but we cannot settle down here. We need to progressively move on. If we want to know the Lord livingly, in a greater measure of fullness, then we must be open and free to His Lordship. **Formalism in our worship must go; reality and life must come in.** First and foremost, there must be a personal life in God, a living relationship with God that is not dependent on any other thing.

A. W. Tozer says, “Why did Christ come? In order that He might make worshippers out of rebels. We were created to worship. Worship is the normal employment of moral beings. Worship is a moral imperative. Worship is the missing jewel in modern Evangelicalism.

“I want to define worship, and here is where I want to be dogmatic. Worship means to feel in the heart. A person that merely goes through the form and does not feel anything is not worshipping.

• “Worship also means to express ‘in some appropriate manner’ what you feel. And what will be expressed? ‘A humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder’. It is delightful to worship God, but it is also a humbling thing.

“Now what are the factors that you will find present in worship? First there is *boundless confidence*. You cannot worship a being you cannot trust. Then there is *admiration*, that is appreciation of the excellency of God. *Fascination* is another element in true worship. To be filled with moral excitement. To be captivated and charmed and entranced with who God is, and struck with astonished wonder at the inconceivable elevation and magnitude and splendor of Almighty God. Next is *adoration*, to love God with fear and wonder and yearning and awe. At times this will lead us to breathless silence.”

Worship is not a matter of only singing some hymns and songs. The words of some old hymns are

good, but what matters is whether we identify with the words we sing. For instance, when we sing the classic hymn, “ *All to Jesus I surrender*”, do we really mean what we say? Do our lives testify of all we sing? Some one said that Christians tell more lies on Sunday morning than on any other day! It is a sorrowful thing to lie to God – and worse still during worship. Again, when we sing the song, “ *As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul thirsteth after Thee*”, are the words we sing backed up by a life wherein there is a deep thirsting for the Lord within? We sing many other songs that have equally beautiful words, tunes and expressions, but do we repeat these songs with mechanical regularity or do we really mean every word we sing? Once I asked a brother, “ what did you feel after you sang that song?” That person had no time for the Lord from Monday through Saturday, yet he sang the loudest on Sunday morning. He enjoyed singing the song immensely and perhaps he was happy that he worshipped God. Many are deceived. Where worship is only a matter of feelings and familiarity, there is little room for progressively moving into higher realms of worship.

In many areas of our lives, we may have violated God’s ways. Yet on Sunday, we participate in a form of worship that makes us feel good and satisfied. This is the kind of formalism, pious religiosity and hypocrisy that Jesus saw in Israel amongst the Jews. There was no inner reality of what they did! This does not mean that we should stop singing songs and have no expressions unto the Lord. No, we must sing songs, but it is the attitude of

the heart with which we sing them, that matters to the Lord. When we sing songs like *“Take my silver and my gold, not a mite will I withhold”* we know that it’s far from reality. However, some songs will produce a joy within us and some will bring forth a great brokenness. When we begin to express ourselves before the Lord, the Holy Spirit begins to work in us. The Spirit will either put within us a great sense of gratitude and joy for all that Christ had done in our lives or He will convict us, deep within and show us the state of our being in relation to God’s purpose for our lives. The Spirit of God residing within us sees the contradiction in our lives and corrects us so that the life of Christ may grow and enlarge within us. He does not condemn us but rather imparts new life to us. Therefore it is very important to be sensitive to all that the Spirit is doing as we worship the Lord. If we remain sensitive to this Spirit, He will produce something and cause something to happen in our being.

True worship does not mean, we should not sing any songs but the songs we sing should breaks down something within us. We should begin to see what is our present state and what confession we are making! Thus the songs we sing would bring about a brokenness within. Then, when there is brokenness, there will be a fresh consecration in worship.

Bricks and mortar cannot communicate with the Spirit. Nor can anything else around us communicate with the Spirit. Man can only communicate with God through the instrumentality of the spirit in union with

God. That’s what Calvary has done! The Holy Spirit places brokenness within us; He makes reality a part of our constitution and the Spirit of Calvary begins to work in our lives and in our midst. Such worship will emanate from the cross and glorify the Lord.

One of the most appalling things in Christendom is that, Satan took hold of the Divine representations or the shadows, or the patterns in the Old Testament after God had done away with it. Satan took hold of them and used them for his own purposes. He cunningly propagates and progresses these things even today. God had set aside the old form of worship, which was but a shadow and a pattern, but Satan has convinced many New Testament people to continue to worship God in the old manner because God had instituted it. Satan has taken the heavenly things of God and told the people, “Go on with this form and pattern of worship.” This is where people find it difficult to separate themselves from the old forms and patterns, because God had initiated them and they had been going on for several centuries. That which was brought in temporarily, Satan has captured for himself in order to obscure the real nature of fellowship and worship. God had brought in the old forms of worship temporarily, for a definite period, but Satan has urged the blind people of today, to continue with the old forms indefinitely. Satan has led people to believe that they would displease God by setting aside all the things, which God Himself began. Many sincere worshippers among Christians miss the full meaning and expressions of Calvary in their lives, because they are still

bound to the old, discarded, dismissed forms and rituals that the Lord set aside long ago. Many are bound to miss the full meaning of Christ crucified, which is the wisdom and the power of God!

In these last days, we need to come into a different realm of worship in our lives. This is very essential. Beloved, wrestling with principalities and powers requires something more than a system of external things. We are up against a spiritual opposition, which is colossal and only a new spiritual position is adequate to that. Anything lesser will not help us to overcome the enemy. If our hearts are set toward God's fullness, then we need to come into that fuller realm of worship as well.

Exercising Spiritual Senses.

Saints of God, we do not want to be in any position lesser than the Lord's first and best. We all know that in the natural, the toys, the picture books, the illustrations, the symbols, the types etc are for children who we know are of little understanding. However, when we reach a certain level of growth, the toys and picture books are removed. I believe, that the time has come to take away the childish things in the church. They served a purpose and were good, for God brought them in when our spiritual intelligence and understanding had not been developed. But now when the Lord is out to have grown up sons, these picture books,

illustrations, toys and patterns must be set aside. Yes, it is time for the church to set aside the things of its childhood. It is time and I can say in all seriousness, that it is high time for the church to change. When God desires to have mature sons, to bring His sons into their inheritance, the need of the hour is for us to exercise our spiritual senses. The Hebrew Christians failed to come into all that the Lord had for them, though they were born of the Spirit. The Scriptures say that we shall see the kingdom of God when we are born again. We acquire a new faculty of seeing and hearing when we are born of the Spirit. These new spiritual senses need to be exercised so that we can experience the deeper worship of God.

This is what Paul says in Hebrews 5:14. 'But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil'.

The Apostle tells the Christians of his time, that because they did not exercise their spiritual senses, he could not share many things of Christ with them. If we realize that we are living in a very important time in the calendar of God, when many old things are ending and being brought to a close, then we also need to leave the things of our childhood aside, because God wants to have sons and not children. I believe that the time has come for the church to experience a deeper work of the Spirit in every area, commencing with worship unto the Lord.

We thank God for Calvary, for our forgiveness is

from Calvary, but we also need to remember that if we are to come into the fullness of Calvary then there needs to be a change in our method of worship. Calvary has to be applied to our worship as well as to our lives. The full expression of the cross and the depth of Calvary would dismiss everything that is of the kindergarten – the things of the elementary and the things of the temporal and the external. Yes, the depth of the Calvary, the full expression of the cross, will bring us into the fullness of the heavenly order, so as to make us full grown sons of God. May we hear the voice of the Shepherd and obey His voice.

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Being still in His Presence.

One of the difficulties that many Christians experience is to be still in the presence of God. Many dislike being still and silent before God because it is so difficult. As we mature and leave the things of the outward senses, the toys and illustration books, we come into something deeper and higher which is the realm of the Spirit. Remaining yielded to the Spirit is undoubtedly difficult but it will bring us into realms of spiritual growth and maturity. I thank God for the precious times He provides us as we gather as a church, so that we may learn to be more sensitive to His presence. Yielding to the Spirit brings the direction and mind of the Lord in our gathering.

A.W. Tozer says, “Because we shut out the Holy

Spirit in so many ways, we are stumbling along as though we are spiritually blindfolded. Ruling out the discernment and the leadership of the Holy Spirit is the only possible explanation for the manner in which Christian churches have yielded to the temptation to entertain, entertain.”

In true worship, excellence is not the goal, but the result. The goal in worship is to approach God and to adore Him. To do this, we must empty our selves of self, come to Him with open hands and open hearts – nothing hidden. No hypocrisy. Only truth.

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Tozer goes on to say, “ the theory is that if the meeting is unplanned the Holy Spirit will work freely. In addition, that would be true if all the worshippers would be reverend and spirit filled. However, mostly there is neither order nor Spirit – just a routine prayer that is, with minor variations, the same every week. They have a few songs that were much to start with but have long ago lost all significance by meaningless repetition. In the majority of our meetings, there is scarcely, a trace of reverend thought, no recognition of the unity of the Body, little sense of the Divine, no moment of stillness, no solemnity, no wonder, no holy fear. But so often there is a dull or breezy song-leader full of awkward jokes as well as a chairman announcing each number with the old radio continuity pattern in an effort to make everything hang together. The whole Christian family stands desperately in need of restoration, penitence, humility and tears. May God

send them soon. Whatever is done without heart is done in the dark, no matter how scriptural it may appear to be.”

Beloved, for the reasons Tozer has mentioned, we really need to be sensitive and to exercise our spiritual senses in greater measure than we do now. As we gather together, we need to wait, pause, and think over the words we sing. We need to ask ourselves, “What am I saying to the Lord?” We need to ponder and wonder before the Lord. Maybe, this will cause us to only sing fewer songs than we sang in earlier times. We need to bring changes in our worship. If the Lord is urging us to come into higher realms of worship, it is because He wants to bring us into another realm in His Son. He is determined to have sons and not children.

So let us give ourselves wholly to what the Spirit wants to do in our lives, individually and corporately. Let us overcome the old habit of singing one song after another. Let us pause and wait before the Lord in awe and reverence. There is a great necessity to be sensitive to the Spirit. We must learn to contemplate what God is saying to us. Let us be lost in the wonder of God and His purposes.

Let us not hear the enemy who whispers, “There is no need to relinquish the old things which the Lord has given.” Let the Lord set aside every old thing, as He has done in the past.

Finally

Brethren...

In closing, I wish to bring your thought again to the Gospel of John chapter 4 and verse 23 and 24, “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”

In these verses we find the beginning of a new dispensation. The Lord Jesus said to the woman “..the hour cometh and now is..”. As we have earlier seen, the Lord Jesus dismissed or set aside that whole old system that had existed upto that time. The hour cometh and now is, when neither in Jerusalem nor in Samaria, neither in this form nor in that form will the Father be worship. The Lord Jesus set aside the whole dispensation in one sentence. He then introduced the new order!

The Lord said, “the hour cometh and now is”. He did not just literally mean an hour and so many minutes. He meant that it was the first hour of the new day! This is the first hour of an altogether new day. What is the new day? If you would have asked the Lord that question, He would have said, “ Well, I am here” The hour is not a matter of time. **It is a matter of a Person! The new dispensation is the dispensation of Jesus Christ.** Christ is the new dispensation.

I would urge you to go through the Gospel of

John. You will find that the Lord centers everything in Himself - "I am here". The Lord says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life", "I am the Shepherd", "I am the Vine", "I am the Bread", "I am the Door", "I am the Resurrection"...It is all a Person and His presence. It is He who is behind everything. Christianity is Christ! Christ is Christianity! That is where it begins and it never departs from Him. The development of Christian life is only the development of Jesus Christ in the life of a believer!

24 • Saints of God, the hour cometh and now is that a people shall worship the Father in the Son! That alone can be acceptable to the Father. That alone is worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth. Worship can no longer be a 'thing', a 'sacrament', a 'ritual', a 'form'; it is coming to Christ, it is a matter of His Person and His presence. May your eyes of understanding be opened to see the dispensation of the Person of Christ when all things are in the Person of His Son! May the Holy Spirit open further the depths of the Person of Christ!